

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 22 October 2010

Question: E10-128

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: AGED CARE INDIGENOUS FACILITIES – SANCTIONS

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Senator Boyce asked:

That is an extraordinary high proportion of facilities in Indigenous communities under sanction – three out of four – given that there are a lot fewer Indigenous facilities.

Answer:

Sanctions are imposed in response to immediate and severe risk being identified to the health, safety or wellbeing of care recipients irrespective of the resident focus of the home.

In recognition of the particular challenges faced by facilities in rural and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, the Commonwealth has established a support package for facilities in rural and remote and indigenous communities. The Remote and Indigenous Service Support Program can provide professional assistance and guidance (including emergency assistance) to services providing residential and community-based aged care in remote and very remote areas, and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The program covers expert assistance, guidance and advice in the categories of care delivery, quality, governance and management, financial management and locum relief.